Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for detecting antithrombin III (AT) in a sample that may contain an interfering factor, the interfering factor being a drug, the method comprising:

(a) providing a reaction mixture by contacting the sample with a first reagent R1 comprising an excess of AT binding partner under conditions wherein the AT binding partner essentially does not interact with AT but a portion of the AT binding partner interacts with the interfering factor such that the interfering factor is no longer available to interfere with the AT and a first free fraction of the AT binding partner remains,

(b) adding to the reaction mixture a second reagent R2 for a first determination of ~~the~~ said first free fraction of the AT binding partner,

(c) changing the conditions of the reaction mixture by adding to the reaction mixture a third reagent R3 such that at least a portion of said first free fraction of the AT binding partner interacts with AT, such that a second free fraction of the AT binding partner remains,

(d) conducting a second determination of the second free fraction of the AT binding partner in the reaction mixture, wherein the determination comprises using the reagent R2, and

(e) determining the AT content in the sample from the difference between the first and second determinations of the first and second free ~~fraction~~ fractions of the AT binding partner.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the AT binding partner is thrombin.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the AT binding partner is factor Xa.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second reagent R2 comprises a chromogenic substrate.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the second reagent R2 comprises an antibody for determining the free AT binding partner.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the third reagent R3 comprises an accelerator of the interaction between AT and the AT binding partner.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the accelerator is heparin.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first reagent R1 further comprises an antagonist for an accelerator of the interaction between AT and the AT binding partner.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the first reagent R1 comprises polybrene.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the third reagent R3 further comprises an additional AT binding partner.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the determination of the AT binding partner comprises a kinetic determination.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)